

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**Claims 1-66 (cancelled)**

67. (currently amended) A method of administering a biologically active protein to a subject, the method comprising

topically applying to the skin or epithelium of the subject the biologically active protein in conjunction with a carrier in an effective amount for transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein of a carrier,

wherein the carrier comprises ~~comprising a~~ a polypeptide polymeric backbone having attached positively charged branching groups comprising a sequence of amino acid residues,

wherein the positively charged branching groups are selected from the group consisting of $-(\text{gly})_{n1}-(\text{arg})_{n2}$, $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RGRDDRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 2), $(\text{gly})_p\text{-YGRKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 3), $(\text{gly})_p\text{-RKKRRQRRR}-(\text{gly})_q$ (SEQ ID NO. 4), and Antennapedia protein transduction domain (PTD),

wherein the subscript $n1$ is an integer of from 0 to about 20, and the subscript $n2$ is independently an odd integer of from about 5 to about 25.

wherein the subscripts p and q are each independently an integer of from 0 to 20,
and

wherein the association between the carrier and the biologically active protein is non-covalent.

68. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 66, wherein the ~~composition~~ carrier provides greater transdermal delivery of the biologically active protein relative to the agent biologically active protein in the absence of the carrier.

69. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 68, wherein ~~in which~~ the biologically active protein has therapeutic activity.

70. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 69, wherein ~~in which~~ the therapeutic protein excludes insulin, botulinum toxins, vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and antibody fragments.
71. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 69, wherein ~~in which~~ the therapeutic protein does not therapeutically alter blood glucose levels.
72. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 69, ~~in which~~ wherein the therapeutic protein excludes [[a]] botulinum toxin.
73. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 69 in which the therapeutic protein excludes antibody fragments.
74. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 69 in which the therapeutic protein excludes VEGF.

Claims 75-191 (cancelled).